



EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS
HONOLULU, HAWAII

David Y. Ige
Governor

Testimony on GM 519
Confirmation of Wesley Machida
Director, Department of Budget and Finance

Governor David Y. Ige

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

February 11, 2015
9:00 a.m., Room 211

Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Kouchi and committee members:

I respectfully request your support in confirming the appointment of Wesley Machida as the Director of the Department of Budget and Finance. Mr. Machida previously served as the Executive Director of the Hawaii State Employees' Retirement System (ERS) where he was responsible for the State's \$14 billion pension fund. His other work experience has been as an Assistant Auditor for the Office of the Auditor where he was responsible for ensuring that public funds were expended according to legislative intent.

This administration is committed to transforming the culture of government by embracing and accelerating change. I'm confident that Wesley Machida will support our department employees in this effort. Together, we can build a better home for our keiki, kupuna, and all the residents of Hawaii.

Mahalo for your consideration.

TESTIMONY BY WESLEY K. MACHIDA
DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
STATE OF HAWAII

TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
ON
GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE NO. 519

FEBRUARY 11, 2015, 9:05 A.M.

RELATING TO THE CONFIRMATION OF THE DIRECTOR OF FINANCE,
DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE

Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Kouchi, and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide you with information for consideration of my desire to serve as the Director of Finance for the State Department of Budget and Finance. If given the opportunity, it would be an honor and privilege for me to work with you, Governor Ige, all other elected officials, and all stakeholders towards a better Hawaii for generations to come. I am extremely grateful to Governor Ige for appointing and giving me the opportunity to serve the people of Hawaii.

I will use my education in business (undergraduate and graduate degrees), work experience in both the private and public sectors, and analytical and communication skills to manage and improve the activities of the Department of Budget and Finance. My goal will be to develop and implement best practices in State government.

Throughout my 30-year working career, I was fortunate to have audited or worked at many departments within the State, City, and counties. My most recent career path led me to the Employees' Retirement System of the State of Hawaii (ERS), Department of Budget and Finance, serving as the Executive Director. Public pension plans across the nation, such as the ERS had been in the news over the past several years for its funding difficulties. The ERS needed to find solutions to its funding difficulties (the ERS Unfunded Liability is currently at \$8.5 billion) to ensure the future sustainability of the ERS. As Executive Director, I worked with staff and consultants to perform the required analysis and develop reports, and execute education and communication plans to inform all stakeholders of the issues and solutions to correct the ERS's funding difficulties. Although the solutions may have been unpopular with some, these difficult decisions needed to be made. With the collective effort of the ERS Board of Trustees, Governor's Administration, Legislature, employee and employer organizations, we were able to enact necessary changes to get the ERS on a path to an improved funded status and sustainability.

I will bring this same drive, motivation, and thought process in developing and implementing the necessary solutions to be more efficient, and realize savings and increased revenues to the State. It is important for me to make a difference for as many people as possible in Hawaii. This means that we should be meeting our fiduciary duty to the public, as we are responsible for their

hard-earned monies that they contribute toward State government. Not only are we responsible for using their dollars in a cost effective and efficient manner, we are also responsible to inform them about the current and projected use of these funds.

My vision for the Department of Budget and Finance is to continue to find solutions to the significant unfunded liabilities of the ERS and Hawaii Employer Union Health Benefits Trust Fund (EUTF) of the State. There are current legislative proposals included in Governor Ige's bill package for the 2015 Legislative Session that, if enacted, could save and reduce over \$1 billion to the ERS and EUTF liabilities. My vision would also include being fiscally prudent, issuing a balanced budget, and ensuring that department budgets and requests are reviewed timely and actions taken are in the best interest of the State to ensure that monies can be used for providing important services to the public. Improving technologies will help this process. After coordinating two (2) significant computer implementations for State agencies, I will use this experience to seek out technology improvements for the department.

My mission will also look at ways to enhance revenues for the State Treasury. We will reassess and change the asset allocation strategy over the investment of monies held in the State Treasury, which on average has been around \$5 billion. The goal of this asset allocation strategy will be to ensure diversity, while maximizing returns and maintaining a conservative risk profile. Preservation of capital will be of the utmost importance.

Aside from the previously mentioned strategy to maximize returns on investment of monies in the State Treasury, another goal that will be included in the Department's strategic plan is to review the debt service and bond issuance plans, as well as reviewing possible new bond programs that will help to lower costs and improve the State's bond rating. Reduction in costs to the State's bond program could come from a more concentrated and strategic use of the State's bond refunding program. In addition, there are securitization bond programs utilized by other states that have helped to increase bond ratings and lower bond issuance costs.

In summary, I hope to use my analytical abilities as a previous auditor and experience with the Executive, Legislative, and Judicial Branches of State government to contribute towards improving State government operations and, in particular, for the Department of Budget and Finance. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to testify on my proposed confirmation for the position of State Director of Finance.

TESTIMONY BY RODERICK K. BECKER
DEPUTY DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
STATE OF HAWAII

TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
ON
GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE NO. 519

February 11, 2015
9:05 A.M.

SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE DIRECTOR OF
THE DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE,
WESLEY MACHIDA

Dear Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Kouchi, and Members of the Committee:

I strongly support the confirmation of Wesley Machida as Director of the Department of Budget and Finance.

Mr. Machida's accomplishments as the Executive Director of the State of Hawaii Employees' Retirement System (ERS) are well known and highly regarded. He has been central in efforts to ensure the sustainability of a \$14 billion retirement system that provides retirement, disability, survivor, and other benefits to more than 115,000 members.

Since assuming the position of Director of Finance, Mr. Machida continues to demonstrate considerable commitment to addressing the State's unfunded liabilities. We are fortunate that Mr. Machida is now in a position to guide efforts to address the unfunded liability for the State's other post-employment benefits.

Further, Mr. Machida's interpersonal and management skills are impressive. He is personable and adept at handling challenging situations. He has also set high expectations for department work products and professional conduct, and genuinely cares for his staff.

Mr. Machida is committed to improving the State's fiscal outlook. Under his direction, the State Department of Budget and Finance continues to be in good hands. I urge your favorable consideration of his confirmation.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.



February 9, 2015

The Honorable Jill N. Tokuda, Chair
The Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi, Vice Chair
And Members
Senate Committee on Ways and Means
415 South Beretania Street, Conference Room 211
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

**RE: G.M. 519 - FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE
DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE,
GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, WESLEY MACHIDA**

Dear Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Kouchi, and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of the confirmation of Mr. Wesley Machida to the Director of the Department of Budget and Finance.

I have known Mr. Machida for more than 10 years while he served, first, as the assistant administrator and, then as, the executive director of the State of Hawaii Employee's Retirement System during which time I was the director of finance for the County of Maui and for the State of Hawaii. In our latter roles, Mr. Machida and I both worked in the Department of Budget & Finance on a number of long-term financial strategies and programs which included strategies to address pension unfunded liabilities, pension reform measures and implications of the state financial plan. Mr. Machida has demonstrated the aptitude and the temperament to be the State's next Director of Budget & Finance.

Coming out of the last recession, the State has been continually challenged to address the myriad of fiscal and economic issues as well as long-term financial difficulties. Developing a concerted strategy to guide the State while also mindfully providing for the on-going operations and services of state departments that taxpayers rely on is a daunting task. Mr. Machida worked closely as part of the management team that helped put together a plan that directed state financial management during the recessionary years and was a key contributor to the state's plans to address long-standing issues on the financial structure of the state.

I am very pleased that Governor Ige has chosen a former management team member of the Department of Budget & Finance to be the next State Finance Director who will continue the positive progress and direction of our state's financial evolution.

Mr. Machida is a consummate professional in government finance and I am confident that he will be a great financial leader for the State of Hawaii and a well respected leader for the department. I urge the members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means to support his selection by voting favorably on his nomination and advancing G.M. 519 for full Senate confirmation.

Sincerely,


KALBERT K. YOUNG
VP for B&F/CFO

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



WESLEY K. MACHIDA
DIRECTOR

RODERICK K. BECKER
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
P.O. BOX 150
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96810-0150

EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM
HAWAII EMPLOYER-UNION HEALTH BENEFITS TRUST FUND
OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

ADMINISTRATIVE AND RESEARCH OFFICE
BUDGET, PROGRAM PLANNING AND
MANAGEMENT DIVISION
FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION DIVISION
OFFICE OF FEDERAL AWARDS MANAGEMENT (OFAM)

February 11, 2015

The Honorable Jill N. Tokuda, Chair
Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Twenty-Eighth State Legislature
State Capitol, Rm. 207
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Subject: Governor's Message 519
Consideration and Confirmation of Wesley Machida, Director of Finance

Dear Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Kouchi and Members of the Committee:

I am respectfully submitting testimony in **strong support** of Mr. Wesley Machida for consideration and confirmation as the Director of Finance for the Department of Budget and Finance. I have known Mr. Machida for approximately 15 years, primarily in his previous position as the Executive Director of the State of Hawaii Employees' Retirement System (ERS), but also during our term together on the State of Hawaii Deferred Compensation Plan board and more recently his appointment, subject to confirmation, as the Director of Finance.

Mr. Machida has always demonstrated a keen analytical perspective and his expertise, while wide ranging but concentrated in the pension area, will be a tremendous asset to the State in formulating budget and debt management policies and decisions. In working with Mr. Machida over the past 15 years, his approach to address and methodically analyze issues has resulted in a clear understanding of the issues which is critical to suggesting or implementing solutions to those issues.

As the Administrator of the Financial Administration Division of the Department, one of my primary responsibilities is to oversee the issuance general obligation bonds and all revenue bond debt. Of the many issues that institutional bond investors and rating agencies are concerned with, unfunded pension liabilities and unfunded Other Post Employment Benefit (OPEB) (health care benefit) liabilities are amongst their greatest concerns. Mr. Machida's expertise with the pension system will be invaluable when speaking or meeting with the institutional investors and rating agency analysts to be able to describe in detail and firsthand, the actions taken to manage and mitigate these liabilities.

I strongly believe that Mr. Machida possesses the necessary intellectual and management skills to effectively lead the Department of Budget and Finance and I respectfully request your favorable consideration of his appointment as the Director of Finance.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'SK', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

SCOTT KAML, Administrator
Financial Administration Division

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



STATE OF HAWAII
EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM

February 10, 2015

The Honorable Jill N. Tokuda, Chair
and Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 207
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: Governor's Message No. 519, Consideration and Confirmation of Mr. Wesley Machida
as the Director of the Department of Budget and Finance

Dear Chair Tokuda and Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means:

I strongly support the confirmation of Mr. Wesley Machida to serve as the Director of the
Department of Budget and Finance for a term to expire December 3, 2018.

Mr. Machida served as the Executive Director of the Employees' Retirement System (ERS) from
July 1, 2010 to December 26, 2014. During his tenure as Executive Director, he tirelessly
advocated for the System's sustainability to ensure that benefits would be available to all active
and retired members, retirees and beneficiaries of the System. Prior to his appointment as the
Executive Director, Mr. Machida served as ERS' Deputy Executive Director from August 1, 2000
and was also the ERS Accounting Manager from September 11, 1989 through April 24, 1994.

Mr. Machida is intelligent, honest, dedicated, and possesses a respectful attitude. His ability to
learn quickly and communicate in a manner that is easily understood by many, coupled with his
experience as the Executive Director of the ERS, makes him an ideal person to meet the budget
challenges of the State in the coming years. The more than 118,000 members, retirees, and
beneficiaries of the ERS will also benefit from his confirmation by continuing to serve as a
member of the ERS Board of Trustees. It is for these reasons and many others that I urge the
Committee to confirm Mr. Machida as the Director of the Department of Budget and Finance.

Thank you for your consideration with Mr. Machida's confirmation.

Sincerely,

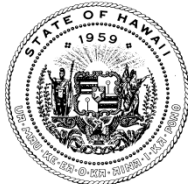
A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Kanoe Margol".

Kanoe Margol
Interim Executive Director
Employees' Retirement System

c: ERS Board of Trustees



Employees' Retirement System
of the State of Hawaii



Testimony of
FORD N. FUCHIGAMI
DIRECTOR

Deputy Directors
JADE T. BUTAY
ROSS M. HIGASHI
EDWN H. SNIFFEN

IN REPLY REFER TO:

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
869 PUNCHBOWL STREET
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-5097

February 11, 2015
9:05 a.m.
State Capitol, Room 211

G.M. 519

Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Director of the Department of Budget and Finance, Gubernatorial Nominee, WESLEY MACHIDA, for a term to expire 12-3-2018

Senate Committee on Ways and Means

The Department of Transportation (DOT) **strongly supports** the confirmation of Wesley Machida as Director of the Department of Budget and Finance.

Mr. Machida is a graduate of Kamehameha Schools and the University of Hawaii at Manoa with an M.B.A. and a B.A. in Economics. He was the former Executive Director of the \$14 billion State of Hawaii Employees' Retirement System, an Assistant Auditor for the Office of the Auditor, and an Assistant Administrator for the Child Support Enforcement Agency. As a Certified Public Accountant (CPA), he worked in the private sector with various accounting firms and was the Senior Audit Manager with Grant Thornton LLP.

Mr. Machida is particularly well qualified and an ideal selection. His experience in both the public and private sector gives him a unique perspective to address the fiscal challenges of the State of Hawaii. We have had the honor of building a strong partnership with Mr. Machida and we continue to appreciate his thoughtful and diligent analysis of our programs and other budgetary issues. We have always found him fair, forthright, and flexible.

We are certain that his experience, expertise, and dedication will be an asset to the State and as such, we unconditionally support his appointment and urge you to confirm him.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.



STATE OF HAWAII
HAWAII STATE PUBLIC LIBRARY SYSTEM
OFFICE OF THE STATE LIBRARIAN
44 MERCHANT STREET
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

February 9, 2015

The Honorable Jill N. Tokuda
Chair, Senate Committee on Ways and Means
State Capitol, Room 207
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Tokuda and Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means:

I am respectfully submitting my strong support on the confirmation of Wesley K. Machida as the Director of the Department of Budget and Finance. I have known Mr. Machida for more than 10 years from the time he was the auditor contracted to perform our annual audit until more recently the Administrator of the State Employee's Retirement System (ERS). During this time, I have worked very closely with him on our HSPLS Financial Audits and in his role as the Legislative Coordinator for ERS. I found Mr. Machida to be very knowledgeable in finance and accounting principles, able to understand and assess HSPLS operations and accounting practices as our Auditor, and was always open and responsive to bills impacting his department and the Administration as the ERS Legislative Coordinator.

Mr. Machida is highly intelligent, respectful, fair, and very articulate. His ability to communicate the very complex options and benefits afforded to all our State retirees would carryover well in explaining the very difficult budget challenges facing the State and the Administrations' plans to address them. I believe he will provide excellent leadership and sound decision making while balancing a compassion for the State of Hawaii. In our brief meeting with Mr. Machida and Governor Ige, we discovered that they both possessed the ability to quickly grasp our financial condition and was very supportive of HSPLS and its 50 public libraries.

I strongly urge you to support and confirm Mr. Wesley Machida as the Director of the Department of Budget and Finance.

Thank you for your consideration and the opportunity to provide my testimony.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Keith T. Fujio".

Keith T. Fujio
Special Assistant to the State Librarian
Hawaii State Public Library System

**Testimony of John M. Tonaki,
State Public Defender to the Senate Committee
on Ways and Means**

February 11, 2015

Re: GM 519 Nominee Wesley Machida to be Director of the Department of Budget and Finance

Chair Tokuda and Members of the Committee:

I am honored to support the nomination of Wesley Machida to be Director of the Department of Budget and Finance for the State of Hawaii. I have known Wesley on a professional basis for about fifteen years in his professional capacity as a Deputy Director and Director of the State Employees' Retirement System [ERS]. Our respective departments are administratively attached to the Department of Budget and Finance and it has been a pleasure working with Wesley as part of the leadership team in Budget and Finance.

Throughout the years, I have developed the utmost respect for Wesley's knowledge and professionalism. He has led the ERS through some of their most difficult years and his knowledge on finances and his ability to tackle difficult issues with calmness and grace has shown through.

For the last four years, we have served together on the Budget and Finance leadership team. Our team met monthly and discussed issues facing the state and our respective departments. Wesley was an integral part of the team and his insights were always very much valued by the team.

I feel that the State of Hawaii is in very good hands with Wesley Machida as the Director of Finance. In Wes, you have a person of unquestioned integrity, intellect and work ethic. I think that he will compliment the Governor's economic team very well. I support his nomination without any hesitation.

Thank you for the opportunity to be heard on this matter.

KRISTIN E. IZUMI-NITAO
235 S. Beretania Street, Suite 300
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

February 10, 2015

The Honorable Jill N. Tokuda, Chair
The Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi, Vice-Chair
Senate Committee on Ways and Means
415 South Beretania Street
State Capitol, Conference Room 211
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: G.M. 519 - Confirmation of Gubernatorial Nominee Wesley Machida as Director of the Department of Budget and Finance, State of Hawaii

Dear Chair Kidani, Vice-Chair Kouchi, and Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means:

I am respectfully writing in strong support of gubernatorial nominee Wesley Machida as Director of the Department of Budget and Finance, State of Hawaii.

Having previously served as a legal advisor to the Hawaii Employees' Retirement System as a Deputy Attorney General from 1999 to 2002, I have had the honor and privilege of working with and getting to know Wes Machida.

Wes is an outstanding and effective leader. He is humble, intelligent, resourceful, dependable, and extremely dedicated to his work. I have seen him be able to navigate the most difficult situations with true leadership by making hard decisions and supporting staff efforts. I have also witnessed his deep commitment in improving our state affairs and strongly believe that Wes has the proper demeanor, commitment, and integrity to move the Department of Budget and Finance positively forward.

Thank you for your kind consideration in this matter.

Very truly yours,



Kristin E. Izumi-Nitao

Lawrence D. Rodriguez, LLC
2110 Laukahi St.
Honolulu, HI 96821

February 10, 2015

The Honorable Jill Tokuda, Chair
and Members
Senate Committee on Ways and Means
State Capitol
415 S. Beretania St.
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Chair Tokuda:

I am providing this testimony in support of Wesley (Wes) Machida, who is seeking appointment as the Director of the Department of Budget and Finance for the State of Hawaii.

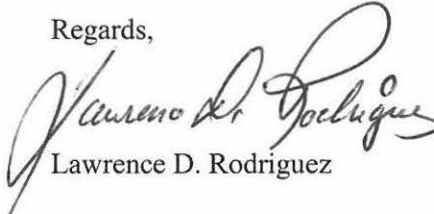
I have known Wes for over 30 years and have worked with him in a professional capacity when I was the Managing Partner of the Hawaii operations for Arthur Young & Company, now known as Ernst & Young, LLP, and also in my prior position as the Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer for Central Pacific Bank. I have always found Wes to be a highly intelligent individual of very high integrity. He is very supportive and communicative with his personnel. These are his major strengths. Wes was a very active CEO and leader of ERS. His duties included all areas of the operation, with a heavy emphasis over the financial operations.

Even though he maintains an active business career, Wes continues to be a supporter of our charitable and civic organizations. When I first met him, he was an active leader in the Junior Achievement position promoting early education of financial literacy. He is a long time advocate of many other community activities.

I believe he will do an excellent job in leading the State's Budget and Finance department. I support his appointment to the position of Director of Finance for the Department of Budget and Finance.

I am available for any additional questions. Please feel free to contact me at the above address or through my cell phone 222-1665.

Regards,



Lawrence D. Rodriguez

February 10, 2015

The Honorable Jill N. Tokuda, Chair
The Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Ways and Means
State Capitol, Room 211
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Kouchi and Members of the Committee:

I am writing to express my strong support of GM #519 for Wesley Machida's nomination to serve as the Director of the Department of Budget and Finance (B&F).

My name is Luis P. Salaveria and I am the Director of the Department of Business, Economic Development & Tourism and former Deputy Director of the Department of Budget and Finance.

I had the pleasure of working with Mr. Machida for the last 4 years while he was the Executive Director of the State of Hawaii's Employee Retirement System (ERS). I can speak from direct experience that Wes is a man of extremely high integrity and exceptional work ethic. His leadership style and follow through have earned him the respect among his staff and peers. While at the ERS, he led the effort to tackle the State's unfunded liability crisis and has helped set the State in the right direction to solvency. The information Wes provided during municipal bond issuances helped to secure some of the lowest interest rates in State history. Always available and able to answer questions, and always there to provide support when asked, Wes has the experience, knowledge, temperament and attitude to lead the State's finances. I know Wes will be a great leader of the Department of Budget and Finance.

For these and other reasons, I strongly urge his confirmation as B&F Director.

Please feel free to contact me directly should you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Luis P. Salaveria

GM519

Submitted on: 2/10/2015

Testimony for WAM on Feb 11, 2015 09:05AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
David Karlen	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I strongly support Mr. Machida's nomination. Speaking as a private individual, I can tell you that I first met him about 15 years ago when I was a Deputy Attorney General. We worked together extensively. Mr. Machida's organizational skills were outstanding. He was always well prepared plus he always had a team to assist that was also extremely well prepared. He had an excellent perspective on both organizational details and the "big picture" that I thought was something special. Together, everyone created an action plan that we were able to carry out. In addition, personally, he is an outstanding individual. I have followed his career successes since then and can assure the Committee that he will be an outstanding member of the Governor's Cabinet.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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TESTIMONY BY DEREK MIZUNO
TO THE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
ON
GM 519
RELATING TO CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE DIRECTOR OF
BUDGET AND FINANCE – **WESLEY MACHIDA**

February 11, 2015

Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Kouchi, and Members of the Committee on Ways and Mean,

I am testifying in SUPPORT of Wesley Machida to be the Director of the Department of Budget and Finance. I have worked with Wes when I was a service provider at KPMG LLP and he was at the Office of the Auditor and as a colleague in the Department of Budget and Finance. I have great respect for Wes as a leader, administrator and person. He had great foresight in setting a vision for the Employees' Retirement System (ERS) and then led the process of implementing that vision which has charted a course of sustainability for the ERS. He has always been fair, reasonable in our dealings and has displayed great character and values. I believe Wes is a great choice as Director of the Department of Budget and Finance.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

February 9, 2015

WRITTEN COMMENTS ONLY

The Honorable Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Chair
The Honorable Senator Ronald D. Kouchi, Vice Chair
Members of the Ways and Means Committee
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 207
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: Governor's Message 519, Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Director of the Department of Budget and Finance, Gubernatorial Nominee, WESLEY MACHIDA, for a term to expire December 3, 2018

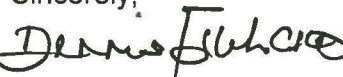
Hearing: Wednesday, February 11, 2015 at 9:05AM
Conference Room 211

Dear Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Kouchi and Members of the Ways and Means Committee:

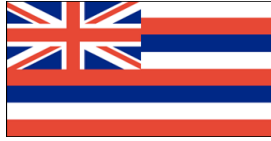
I am writing in support of the appointment of Wesley Machida to serve as the Director of the Department of Budget and Finance. My name is Dennis M. Tsuhako and I am writing as a character witness on behalf of Mr. Machida.

My firm performed the financial audit of the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for the State of Hawaii for the year ended June 30, 2014 and have performed numerous audits for various State departments over the past years. Mr. Machida has provided valuable contribution to the State of Hawaii, specifically the Employees' Retirement System, based on his in depth knowledge and experience. It is my opinion that as the Director of the Department of Budget and Finance, Mr. Machida can be counted upon to do what needs to be done by the department and will serve the State of Hawaii with integrity and high standards.

I strongly urge you to confirm Wesley Machida as Director of the Department of Budget and Finance and thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on this matter.

Sincerely,


Dennis M. Tsuhako
Partner



CAPITOL CONSULTANTS OF HAWAII, LLP
222 South Vineyard Street Suite 401, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Office: 808/531-4551 Fax: 808/533-4601
Website: www.capitolconsultantsofhawaii.com

February 11, 2015

Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Chair
Senator Ronald D. Kouchi, Vice Chair
Committee on Ways and Means
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 211

RE: GM519 Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Director of the Department of Budget and Finance, Gubernatorial Nominee, WESLEY MACHIDA, for a term to expire 12-3-2018.

Dear Chairwoman Tokuda, Vice Chairman Kouchi and Members of the Committee:

I am pleased to be able to recommend Wes Machida to your Committee and to all of our State Senators, for the position of Director of Budget and Finance. Having served as Executive Director of the Hawaii State Teachers Association from 1975-1988 and as the Associate Executive Director of the University of Hawaii from 1988-2007, and as the lobbyist for UHPA from 2007 until the present, I have known and worked with Mr. Machida for many of the past forty years. I have had the opportunity to see him grow in his career as a public servant during that time, and throughout it he has succeeded from one administrative post to another, always doing quiet, competent, superior work. Wes is one of those people that co-workers and others look to for leadership and results. As Executive Director of the ERS, he set the bar for all who will follow him. As Director of Budget and Finance, he is as prepared as anyone can possibly be to be the chief financial advisor to Governor Ige. He will do an outstanding job and, like many others, I recommend him, unreservedly.

Respectfully Submitted,

John H. Radcliffe
President

GM519

Submitted on: 2/9/2015

Testimony for WAM on Feb 11, 2015 09:05AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lon	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I fully support Wesley Machida as the Budget and Finance Director.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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TESTIMONY BY SANDRA YAHIRO
TO THE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
ON
GM 519

February 11, 2015, 9:05 a.m.

RELATING TO CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE DIRECTOR OF
BUDGET AND FINANCE – **WESLEY MACHIDA**

Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Kouchi, and Members of the Committee:

I am testifying in STRONG SUPPORT of Wesley Machida to be the Director of the Department of Budget and Finance. I have known Wes for over 10 years, both as a fellow trustee of the State of Hawaii Deferred Compensation Plan and as a colleague in the Department of Budget and Finance. Wes's background includes working as a senior audit manager at Grant Thornton, an assistant auditor for the Office of the Auditor, and both assistant administrator and then most recently executive director at the Employees' Retirement System (ERS).

Wes has always displayed high ethical standards and is always looking out for what's best for the State and taxpayers. He has been a great leader of the ERS and will make a great leader of the Department of Budget and Finance.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.